X. *A Copy of a Letter from* R. P. *Vicar of* Kildwick *in* Yorkshire, *to a Friend of his in those Parts, wherein he gives an Account of an Extraordinary Eruption of Water, which happened in* June, 1686.

Worthy Sir,

I Have now drawn a full, though short, Account of the great Loss sustained by the Inhabitants of *Kettlewell* and *Starbotton*, in *Craven*, in the County of *York*; by a sudden overflow of Water. The Towns are situate under a great Hill on the East and West; the Country is very mountainous and Rocky. The Descent of the Rain was after a Thunder-Clap, for the Continuance of about an Hour and half, with extraordinary Violence, and by several Eye-witnesses, the Rock on the East side opened visibly, and Water they beheld thence into the Air, the height of an ordinary Church-Steeple; so that the Current of Water came down the Hill into the respective Towns, as in one entire Body, and with a Breast as if it would have drowned the whole Towns. Several Houses were quite demolished, and not a Stone left; others gravel'd to the Chamber-Windows; some Inhabitants driven, until this Day, from their Habitations, the Current of the Water running through their Houses; mighty Rocks descended from the Mountains into the Valley, and there lie immovable; many fair Meadows cover'd with Sand and Stones, that the Worth of the Soil will not regain the same. Houshold-goods taken away into the great River of *Wharfe*, and so

The Royal Society is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve, and extend access to *Philosophical Transactions (1683-1775).* www.jstor.org

ſo loſt; beſides many quick Goods. The loſs reputed to be many Thouſand Pounds. Many Families quite ruined; others in part only. Such an Inſtance hath not been heard of within Memory, conſidering all Circumſtances. Much more might be ſaid; but, in ſhort, this may ſatisfy as an intelligible Account of what you requeſted from,

YOUR FRIEND,

R. P.

Since the firſt Flood that I have related, there have been Two others, though not ſo great and dangerous: For the Towns have either of them a great Beck (as we call it) or Current of Water runing through them, which by the firſt Flood were gravel'd up; ſo that the Paſſage is much altered, and cannot be regained; though there have been many Hundreds of Men ſet to do it, and Hundreds of a Day.